

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC
COMMENT PERIOD FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATER QUALITY STUDY**

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Public meetings will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2009 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm at the Disputanta Community Center located at 10010-B County Drive, Disputanta, VA 23974. BOTH MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing a study to restore water quality for portions of the Blackwater River, Blackwater Swamp, tributary to Coppahaunk Swamp, Warwick Swamp, Second Swamp, and Otterdam Swamp within the City of Petersburg, Prince George, Dinwiddie, Surry, and Sussex counties. This notice also announces the first public meetings and a public comment opportunity.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Overview and summary of the research to date of the water quality impairments of the recreation/swimming use for portions of the Blackwater River and tributaries (mentioned above) which are impaired due to bacterial violations.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination for portions of the Blackwater River and its tributaries. This impairment spans approximately 82 miles. These waterways are impaired for failure to meet the recreational (swimming) designated use due to exceedances of the bacterial water quality standard.

Waterbody	Location	Impaired Length (mi)	Impairment
Blackwater Swamp	Petersburg, Prince George, Surry, Sussex	22.53	Recreational Use (Swimming)
Blackwater River	Sussex, Surry	24.59	
Warwick Swamp	Dinwiddie, Prince George	12.89	
Second Swamp	Petersburg, Prince George	15.24	
Otterdam Swamp	Surry	5.57	
Tributary to Coppahaunk Swamp	Sussex	0.89	
Total Impairment Length		81.71	

The study reports on the current status of the River and its tributaries via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the above impairments. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacteria levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which expires January 4, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:	Margaret Smigo – TMDL Coordinator	Fax: (804)-527-5106
Address:	VDEQ, Piedmont Regional Office 4949A Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA, 23060	E-mail: Margaret.Smigo@deq.virginia.gov Telephone: (804) 527-5124